

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Let us worship God, who loved the world so much that he gave his only Son that everyone who believes in him should not be lost, but should have eternal life.

LET US SING PRAISES TO OUR GOD AS WE TURN IN OUR HYMNAL TO NUMBER 223.

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GOD'S WORD ASSURES US THAT

if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether -- the past is finished and gone, and everything has become fresh and new.

God's mercy never ends.

(I tell you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.)

LET US PRAY TOGETHER THE LORD'S PRAYER:

"Our Father, who art in heaven....."

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PASTORAL PRAYER:

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ taught us to pray, and promised that what we ask in his name will be given us: ~~xxxxxxx~~ so guide us by thy Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve thy will and show thy steadfast love.

Give us, O Lord, a right understanding and a sincere love of thy Word; that we may not be deceived and carried away by any falsehood, but grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Xt.

May we show forth our gratitude to Thee in joy-filled lives, concerned most with our obedience to Thee in Christlike living in our families, our daily work, our recreation, and in our citizenship.

Eternal Ruler of all who rule, and Lord of life and determiner of thy people's destiny, give our President, his advisers, all people's representatives,

insight and skill in finding ways to end war and to build peace on foundations of justice and compassion. Be with every one in the armed forces, particularly those obeying orders in dangerous areas today. Restore sound thinking and good will and deepen the desire for true peace in all rulers and peoples everywhere.

O God of love untiring, thou knowest what is best for all thy children. Give to each suffering and sorrowing person thy healing and thy comfort. Keep from wrong decisions those facing difficult problems; and guard from choosing the easy wrong, young and old struggling with alluring temptations. Bless us and those we love, our friends and families, that, drawing close to thee, we may be -- drawn closer to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

What can we give thee, O thou God of infinite resources? Thou canst create anything thou desirest. Yet thou wilt not compel our cooperation, nor coerce us into giving thee ourselves and our possessions to thee as we ought.

Thou hast given us thyself in Jesus Christ, our divine Redeemer and Friend.

And for this we thank thee in His holy name. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON:

Prepare our hearts, O Lord, to accept thy Word with faith and obedience, that in thy light we may see light, in thy truth find freedom, and in thy will discover thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER THE SERMON:

Grant, O Lord, that the words which we have heard today with our ears may be so rooted in our hearts that we may practice in our lives what you have taught us. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

INVOCATION: O God, our eternal Father,
we present ourselves before Thee in Thy house this day
with gladness and expectation, with thanksgiving
and praise. Grant to us all the help of thy Holy
Spirit, that we may pray sincerely,
confess our sins honestly,
realize thy forgiveness genuinely
and sing thy praises joyfully.
Open our minds that we may be attentive to thy voice
as we may hear it in Scripture and sermon,
in prayer and music.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offertory prayer: O Lord God, we are glad that you
did not keep for yourself the beauty and glory
and goodness of creation. Not when you took upon
yourself to deliver man from his enemies of sin and
death and despair, did you withhold the supreme gift
of yourself in Jesus Christ.

Lord, make us more like you,
that we may give of our treasure, of our time,
and of our ability to make life for others more
nearly like your purpose for all mankind.
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.